

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

February 10, 1997 LB 182, 258, 264

File, LB 182 to General File with amendments, and LB 264 to General File with committee amendments attached. That is all that I have at this time, Madam President. (See pages 559-64 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you. LB 258.

CLERK: LB 258, a bill introduced by Senator Wesely. (Read title.) The bill was introduced on January 13, referred to the Health Committee. The bill was advanced to General File. I do have committee amendments to the bill, Madam President.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: The Chair recognizes Senator Wesely to open on the bill.

SENATOR WESELY: Thank you, Madam President, members of the Legislature. LB 258 is a bill that is only one page long. It deals with a particular...a couple of particular problems in Medicaid managed care. We've all known that there is a broad set of problems with Medicaid managed care. Most of those are administrative in nature on the function of contracts signed, the performance of the contracts, but there are a couple of legal problems that have come up that we need to address, and that is what LB 258 deals with. First off, we have got a system currently where an individual can come into the Medicaid program and they are dispersed singularly, so that a family could come in, and the mother comes in and is assigned to one managed care plan, and the son or daughter of the mother is assigned to another, and we have even had twins assigned to different managed care plans. This bill would stop that and allow for...clarify that family members are going to be handled together under one system, so that you don't have them split apart as they have in the past. That's one thing. The second thing is that we have, under the current federal law, a requirement that every 30 days a switching can occur between plans, and this has led to, I believe, it was 800 and some changes in a year that have been disruptive to the process. What we are trying to do under managed care is to have a home, a medical home for individuals, and when they move about between plans, it becomes very difficult to manage the care very well, and that has been one concern. It has... So, individuals, I think, are not well-served when that happens, and the providers